

INITIATIVE 232

I, Ralph Munro, Secretary of State of the State of Washington and custodian of its seal, hereby certify that, according to the records on file in my office, the attached copy of Initiative Measure No. 232 to the Legislature is a true and correct copy as it was received by this office.

1 AN ACT Relating to water; and adding a new chapter to Title 90 RCW.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The people of the state of Washington
4 declare that:

5 (1) Water is a fundamental requirement for life, and the basic
6 right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" is therefore
7 dependent on the right to water;

8 (2) The right to access water for basic needs is currently not
9 guaranteed within state statutes;

10 (3) The denial of access to water within the state occurs regularly
11 through both actions of the state and inactions of the state; and

12 (4) The threat of denial of access to water constitutes a leverage
13 of government that threatens the fundamental freedoms of each citizen.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Each citizen of the state of Washington
15 is entitled to the basic amount of water needed for that citizen to
16 exist within the society of this state. This amount constitutes the
17 quantity or amount required under statute, or by rules adopted by the
18 department of health, that is necessary to consider a domicile to be

1 adequately served. Each citizen holds a right that can be exercised
2 individually or cumulatively to ensure them the right to sufficient
3 water with which to live.

4 (2) The water right of the individual citizens shall be allowed to
5 be considered cumulatively to form the necessary rights for a water
6 system to provide water service to any group of citizens that so
7 choose, as their preferred method, to acquire water to the property
8 upon which they live. If the property is served by a water system,
9 regardless of size, the water rights of the citizens served must be
10 assigned to the purveyor. The accumulated water rights shall serve as
11 a single water right through which that system is authorized to serve
12 its customers. In those situations where allocated water rights are
13 currently held by the water purveyor, the assigned rights of the
14 individuals served will be subtracted from the existing water right
15 certificate held by that purveyor to that point where the water right
16 certificate is fully exercised. Any individual rights accumulated to
17 that purveyor beyond certificated water rights shall expand that right
18 to provide service to those people whose individual rights have been
19 acquired. Purveyors shall be allowed to plan for and build
20 infrastructure for water systems needed to reasonably serve the
21 projected growth twenty years into the future.

22 (3) Where the individual water rights are exercised for a single
23 domestic system, the water right can be exercised as a ground water
24 source in any way practicable. This right to a basic quantity of water
25 does not diminish existing rights to access water, except that the
26 amount of water acquired through the basic human right should be
27 considered as part of any other existing right.

28 (4) The right of each citizen to access sufficient water to ensure
29 his or her functional survival in the society of the state shall not be
30 abridged by any prioritization or allocation process that currently
31 exists, or shall be in the future proposed, without the approval of
32 two-thirds of the voters voting in a general election.

33 (5) Nothing in this section is intended to restrict a local
34 government's ability or authority to appropriately manage land use
35 within its jurisdiction.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act constitute a
2 new chapter in Title 90 RCW.

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